

1905-035 Chancery Causes: Rebecca Lawson vs. John Lawson  
Lee Co.

Poff, Wiseley

CA-Divorce



To the Hon. H. A. W. Skeen, Judge of the Circuit Court for the county of Lee:

Your oratrix, Rebecca Lawson, wife of John Lawson, would respectfully represent unto the court that she was married to the said John Lawson on the 18th day of June, 1897, and is now thirty-one (31) years of age, and during all that time she has been unto her said husband a faithful and devoted wife, and has borne him two two children, to-wit:

*Nellie*, now seven years of age; *James*, four years old, both of whom are now living with and supported by your complainant. Your oratrix avers that on the ---- day of -----, 1900, her said husband, without provocation or excuse, and against the humble entreaty of your oratrix, abandoned and deserted her and her said children and has ever since refused either to live with your oratrix or to furnish her or her said children with the means of support, by reason whereof your oratrix has been forced to provide a support for herself and said children by her own labor.

Complainant alleges that her said husband, who is now a resident of Lee county, Virginia, is intemperate and grossly profane in his habits; that your oratrix was born and reared and has always resided in Virginia; that she last cohabited with her said husband in Wise county, Virginia, and that she is now and has been for the last five years domiciled in Scott county, Virginia.

In consideration whereof, and in as much as your oratrix is remediless save in a court of equity, she prays that the said John Lawson may be made a party defendant to this bill and required to answer the same, but not on oath, that being expressly hereby waived; that your oratrix may be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the said John Lawson; that your oratrix be awarded the care and custody of her said children; that she be afforded all such other and general relief as her cause merits and to equity may seem meet. And your oratrix will ever pray.

S. W. Coleman, p.q.



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*vs.*

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GEO. M. EDMONDS,

Attorney-at-Law,

GATE CITY, - - VIRGINIA.

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Everett Waddey Co., Stationers and Printers, Richmond, Va.



Costs:  
 Clerk \$3.30  
 Tax 1.50  
 Shff 1.00  
 Comm. 75  
 Wits. 1.00  
 Atty. 15.00  
 \$22.55

Rebecca Lawson

v { Bill

John Lawson

Filed Oct. 11th 1908.  
 J. H. Ewing  
 Clerk.

1908 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct Ruler  
 Bill filed Spw  
 executed.  
 " 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. Ruler  
 Cause set for  
 hearing.

1900 to 1910



Rebecca Lawson     )  
                              )  
          v.                 )     In Chancery.  
                              )  
John Lawson         )

                  This cause came on this day to be heard upon the complainant's bill and the depositions filed in the cause. And it appearing to the court that the defendant has been regularly served with process, the cause regularly matured at rules and set for hearing, and the defendant having failed to either appear, plead, demur or answer, it is therefore adjudged, ordered and decreed that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between John Lawson, the defendant, and Rebecca Lawson, the complainant, be and the same are hereby dissolved.

And it is further ordered and decreed that the complainant have, and she is hereby awarded the care and custody of her two minor children, to-wit: *Nellie* Lawson and *James* Lawson, and that the complainant recover of the defendant her costs in this behalf expended.

And it further appearing to the court that there is nothing further necessary to be done in the cause it is ordered stricken from the docket, with leave to either of the parties to have the same reinstated upon motion.



Rebecca Lawson

v. )

Decree.

John Lawson

Entered in C.C.B.  
No 8 Page 90-

Enter this decree

H. C. W. Skene

Decr. //, 1905.



To John Lawson:

You are hereby notified, that on the 7th. day of December, 1905, between the hours of 9 o'clock A. M. and 6 o'clock P. M. of that day, at the law office of S. W. Coleman in Gate City, Va., I shall proceed to take the deposition of William Jones and others, to be read as evidence in my behalf in a certain suit in chancery, depending in the Circuit Court of Lee county, Virginia, wherein I am complainant and you are defendant; and if from any cause the taking of the said depositions be not commenced, or if commenced, be not concluded on that day, the taking thereof will be adjourned from day to day or from time to time, at the same place and between the same hours, until the same shall be completed.

Truly yours,

Rebecca Lawson,  
By Counsel.



Rebecca Lawton

5-1-11

John Lawton

received by  
Delivern at  
copy of the  
within to  
John Lawton  
this Nov. 25 1905  
J. F. Hughes 202  
for Wm. Ball  
L. L. C.

Please send me  
my fifty cts.



The depositions of Rebecca Lawson & others, taken before me, S. H. Bond, a Commissioner in Chancery for the Circuit Court of Scott County, Va., at the office of S. W. Coleman in Gate City, Va., on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Decr, 1905, between the hours of 9 A.M. & 6 P.M., in pursuance of notice hereto annexed, to be read as evidence in behalf of Rebecca Lawson in a certain suit in Chancery, depending in the Circuit Court of Lee County, Va., wherein Rebecca Lawson is Complainant & John Lawson is defendant.

Present, S. W. Coleman, Atty. for Compl.

J. H. Poff, a lawful witness being first duly sworn deposes & says:

Q<sup>1</sup> Please state your age, residence & occupation?

32 years old, am a farmer and reside in Scott County

Q<sup>2</sup> Are you acquainted with John & Rebecca Lawson, the parties to this suit?

Ans - I am

Q<sup>3</sup> Was Rebecca Lawson married to John Lawson, if so, please state whether or



that you were present at their marriage, and how long it has been & whether or not they afterwards lived together as man & wife?

Ans. They were married, I was present at the marriage; it has been about eight years or a little more; they afterwards lived together or more or less they lived together about three years.

Q<sup>4</sup> Are John & Rebecca Lawan now living together as man & wife, if not, please state if you know, why they are not?

Ans. They are not; the last I heard of with an other woman and kept with her; they have not lived together for about five years.

Q<sup>5</sup> Where did John & Rebecca Lawan last live together as man & wife?

Ans. In Wise County, Virginia.

Q<sup>6</sup> State, if you know, where John Lawan now resides?

Ans. In Lee County, Va.

Q<sup>7</sup> Where does Rebecca Lawan now reside?

Ans. In Scott County, Va.



Q<sup>8</sup> How long has Rebecca Lawson been a resident of Scott County, Va?

Ans. She has been living here out five years since her husband left her.

Q<sup>9</sup> Is John Lawson a man who is moral & temperate in his habits?

Ans. He drinks as a before badly. And further this deponent says not.  
J. H. <sup>his</sup> Poff

Elizabeth Wisley another lawful witness being first duly sworn deposes & says:

Q<sup>10</sup> Please state your age, residence & ~~occupation~~?

Ans. Twenty five years old; reside in Scott County.

Q<sup>11</sup> Please state whether or not you were present

Q<sup>12</sup> Are you acquainted with John & Rebecca Lawson, the parties to this suit?

Ans. Yes, Sir.

Q<sup>13</sup> Please state whether or not you were present at the marriage of John & Rebecca Lawson, & if so, how



long it has been since they were married?

I am present; it has a month or two more than eight months—

Q<sup>4</sup> Did they afterwards, that is, after their marriage, live together as man & wife?

They did—

Q<sup>5</sup> Are they now living together as man & wife, if not, why not?

They are not; he took an other woman and left her;

Q<sup>6</sup> How long has it been since John Lawson deserted his wife, Rebecca Lawson?

Ans. A little more than six months—

Q<sup>7</sup> Have they at any time since resided together as man & wife?

Ans. No, Sir—

Q<sup>8</sup> Where did Rebecca & John Lawson live at the time of & for one year prior to the institution of this suit?

Ans. She lived in Perth Co. N. Y. & he in La Crosse Co.

Q<sup>9</sup> Is John Lawson a man who is moral



Ans.

& temperate in his habits?

He gets drunk and has been  
a round consumer -

And further this defendant saith  
not.

Elyotuk<sup>his</sup> X Wiley  
Mast

Rebecca Lawson, the complainant, be-  
ing first duly sworn, deposes & says:

Q<sup>1</sup> Please state your age & residence?

Thirty years old and reside in  
Scott County -

Q<sup>2</sup> Are you the wife of John Lawson,  
& the complainant in this suit?

Ans.

Yes, Sir -

Q<sup>3</sup> How long since you were mar-  
ried to John Lawson?

Ans.

about eight years or a little  
over -

Q<sup>4</sup> Did you & John Lawson after your  
marriage live together as man &  
wife? If so, for how long?

Ans. - We did for about three years.

Q<sup>5</sup> - Are you & your husband now liv-  
ing together as man & wife, if not,  
why not?

Ans.

We are not. He took up with  
an other woman and left me -



Q<sup>6</sup> How long has it been since he took  
up with another woman & left you?

Ans- Five years

Q<sup>7</sup> Have you & John Fawson at any time  
since he left you lived together as  
man & wife?

Ans- No, Sir-

Q<sup>8</sup> Were you always kind & considerate  
towards your husband, or did you  
give him any cause to desert you?

I was always kind to him  
and treated him right - & gave  
him no cause to desert me-

Q<sup>8</sup> Where did you & John Fawson  
live together as man & wife?

Ans- In Wise County, Va.

Q<sup>9</sup> At the time of & for one year  
prior to the institution of this  
suit where did you & John Fawson  
live?

Ans- He lived in Lu County, Va  
& I in Scott County, Va-

Q<sup>10</sup> How long have you been a resident  
of this state?

Ans- Since I was about four years  
old-

Q<sup>11</sup> Have you any children by your mar-  
riage with John Fawson, if so, please



state how many & give their names  
& with whom they have been living  
since your husband deserted you, &  
who has supported them.

Answer

I have two children & his  
the oldest will be seven years  
next May, his name is Isaac.  
The youngest will be five next  
Feb, her name is Mary Eliza.  
The children have been with me  
since my husband left me  
and I have worked and supported  
them. I live with my  
brother and sister.

Q<sup>2</sup> Is your husband a moral & temperate  
man in his habits?

No, Sir, he is a drunken  
man.

Q<sup>3</sup> At the time or before he left you  
did he do or say anything which led  
you to believe that he was going to de-  
sert you, if so, please state what he  
said or did?

He threatened to leave me  
and told me he went to live.  
He sold off every thing he  
had, including household



Joads - He kept me in  
 a helpless condition -  
 And further this depends with out.  
 Rebecca <sup>her</sup> ~~Larson~~ <sub>husb</sub>

Cost J. H. Poff and	.50
Elizabeth Whisler	.50
Commission - & by	.75
	<hr/> 1.25

Scott County Co. Va.:-  
 I, A. H. Budd, a Commissioner  
 in charge for the Census Bureau  
 for the County of Scott in the  
 State of Virginia, do hereby  
 That J. H. Poff, Elizabeth  
 Whisler and Rebecca Larson  
 whose names are signed to  
 the foregoing declaration, signed,  
 and sworn and test to it as  
 shown above.

Given under my hand  
 this Dec. 7, 1905.

A. H. Budd,  
 Commissioner - in charge -



Rebecca Lumsden  
vs { Depositions  
}

John Lumsden

Filed Dec. 8, 1905.

H. C. V. Ewing, clk.



The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU, That you summon

*John Lawson*

to appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at rules to be held for the said court, on  
the *3<sup>rd</sup>* Monday in *October*, 190*5*, to answer a bill in chancery exhibited against *him*  
*in our said Court by Rebecca Lawson*

And have then there this writ. Witness, H. C. T. EWING, Clerk of our said Court, at the court-house, the *7<sup>th</sup>*  
day of *October*, 190*5*, and 1*30*, year of the Commonwealth.

A Copy, Teste:

*H. C. T. Ewing*, Clerk.

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk.



Rebecca Lawson

VS

SUBPOENA  
IN  
CHANCERY.

John Lawson

S. H. Coleman p. q

To 2<sup>nd</sup> 11 October Rules.

Lee Circuit Court.  
1905

Executed by delivering  
a copy of the within  
Subpoena to John Lawson  
This Oct 11, 1905

H. J. Owens D.S.  
For P. M. Ball S. H. C.